



TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD

West Hartford Advisory Commission for Persons with Disabilities

2015 Year in Review

The purposes of the Advisory Commission for Persons with Disabilities shall be to improve public awareness and understanding of the special needs, as well as the rights, of persons with disabilities; to assure the commitment of the Town and the community that every person, regardless of handicap or other disability, shall have the opportunity to realize his or her fullest potential and participate as fully as possible in the life of the community; and to encourage the elimination of barriers of every kind which stand in the way of persons with disabilities living and working in the community.

The Commission for Persons with Disabilities met the following dates during 2015:

- March 2, 2015
- May 18, 2015
- September 28, 2015
- November 9, 2015

Highlights of 2015:

- The Commission provided insight and feedback to Community Service Department regarding the development of the Complete Streets Policy- a policy to ensure the town roadways complement and enhance the surrounding land use and neighborhood character while accommodating all users.
- Collaborated with Community Services Department and Public Works to address issues related to snow removal and disability access including: snow placed in accessible parking spaces, snow obstructing access at crosswalks and curb ramps, tenants (commercial and residential) failing to remove snow along abutting sidewalks to provide enough clearance along the path of travel, enforcing accessible parking laws/regulations particular to unqualified vehicles parking in accessible parking spaces, among others.
- Reviewed available accessible housing stock with the West Hartford Housing Authority and processes to apply for housing.
- Reviewed construction projects related to disability access with the Human and Leisure Services department including updates to:
 - Fernridge Park parking
 - UConn/Miracle League restrooms and concessions
 - Goodrich Park restrooms

- Sterling Field restrooms and sidewalks
 - Cornerstone Aquatics Center building entrance and pool access
 - Beachland Park parking
- The Town officially recognized 2015 as the 25th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Reviewed available services and programs for students with disabilities with Glenn McGrath, Director of West Hartford Public Schools Pupil Services.

The Commission will continue its commitment to equal access and opportunities for people with disabilities throughout 2016. Inquiries regarding 2016 objectives and topics related to disability access may be directed to Josh Rucker, Chair of the Commission, at Joshua.p.rucker@gmail.com or 617-461-9625.

Respectfully Submitted by Joshua Rucker